

Appl. No. 10/643,330  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT BEFORE FIRST ACTION

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 – 13. (Cancelled)

14. (new): A method of making synthetic diamond comprising:

- a. providing cremated human or animal remains;
- b. collecting residual carbon from said cremated human or animal remains; and
- c. converting said residual carbon to diamond.

15. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein said collecting step is carried out by adding additional carbon to said cremated human or animal remains and purifying said cremated human or animal remains in the presence of said additional carbon.

16. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein said converting step is carried out under conditions effective to form a diamond gemstone.

17. (new) The method of claim 16, further comprising faceting said diamond gemstone.

18. (new): A method of making synthetic diamond comprising:

- a. providing at least partially cremated human or animal remains;
- b. collecting residual carbon from said at least partially cremated human or animal remains; and
- c. converting said residual carbon to diamond.

19. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein said collecting step is carried out by adding additional carbon to said at least partially cremated human or animal remains and purifying said human or animal remains in the presence of said additional carbon.

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20. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein said converting step is carried out under conditions effective to form a diamond gemstone.

21. (new) The method of claim 18, further comprising faceting said diamond gemstone.

22. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of providing at least partially cremated human or animal remains is carried out by obtaining at least partially cremated human or animal remains from a source.

23. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of providing at least partially cremated human or animal remains is carried out by treating human or animal remains in a cremation oven.

24. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein said treating step is carried out under conditions effective to conserve residual elemental carbon.

25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said conditions effective to conserve residual elemental carbon comprise cremating at least a portion of the available human or animal remains in a closed vessel placed within a cremating oven.

26. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said conditions effective to conserve residual elemental carbon comprise positioning the human or animal remains in a cremating oven so that at least one of the head and chest area is not positioned directly underneath the main burner.

27. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said conditions effective to conserve residual elemental carbon comprise using a cremation temperature of approximately 1000 degrees Fahrenheit ( $5 \times 10^2$  degrees Celsius).

28. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said conditions effective to conserve residual elemental carbon are provided by dividing human or animal remains to be cremated into at least

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two portions, and cremating at least one said portion under conditions effective to conserve elemental carbon.

29. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said conditions effective to conserve residual elemental carbon are provided by dividing human or animal remains to be cremated into at least two portions, and cremating at least one said portion in at least partial isolation from oxygen, compared to at least one other said portion of the human or animal remains.

30. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein said at least partially cremated human or animal remains are partially cremated, further comprising the step, after collecting human or animal remains comprising residual carbon from said partially cremated human or animal remains, of further cremating said partially cremated human or animal remains.